

## **AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) A product container comprising:

[a) — an elongated sleeve defining an opening at one end thereof, the opening defined by a peripheral edge, the sleeve including a pair of opposed resilient locking tabs extending from the peripheral edge of the opening for releasably engaging an end cap received within the opening, each said locking tab having a width exceeding a height thereof and having at least one pair of parallel edges; and

b) — an end cap adapted and configured for reception within the opening of the sleeve, the end cap defining at least a pair of discrete channels therein, each said channel having an outwardly extending rim and a ledge, the outwardly extending rim being adapted to abut the peripheral edge of the opening to limit the extent to which the end cap can extend into the sleeve, the ledge having a ledge face, the ledge face being dimensioned and shaped to fit closely within the sleeve, each said channel receiving at least one said locking tab therein, a given said locking tab releasably engaging a given said ledge of a corresponding said channel to retain the end cap in the sleeve.]

(A) an elongated sleeve, including:

- (a) an upper peripheral edge defining an upper opening,
- (b) a lower peripheral edge defining a lower opening, and
- (c) a pair of opposed upper resilient locking tabs extending from the upper peripheral edge, each of the upper locking tabs having at least one pair of parallel edges; and

(B) an upper end cap adapted and configured for reception within the upper opening of the sleeve, the upper end cap defining at least a pair of first discrete channels therein, at least one the first channels receiving at least one of the upper locking tabs therein, each of the first channels including:

- (i) a first outwardly extending rim being adapted to abut the upper peripheral edge of the upper opening to limit an extent to which the upper end cap extends into the sleeve, and
- (ii) a first ledge including a ledge face being dimensioned and shaped to fit closely within the sleeve, the first ledge releasably engaging one of the upper locking tabs within the first channel to retain the upper end cap in the sleeve, the engaged upper locking tab being released from the first ledge by a twisting motion.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Currently amended) The [A] product container as recited in Claim 20, wherein the opposed upper locking tabs are adapted and configured for folding into the sleeve to releasably engage at least one of the first [a given said] channels of the upper end cap.

23. (Currently amended) The [A] product container as recited in Claim 20, wherein the sleeve is defined by opposed first and second curved panels, each panel including a first and a second lateral edges.

24. (Currently amended) The [A] product container as recited in Claim 23, wherein the first and second curved panels are connected to one another along the first and the second lateral edges of the container.

25. (Currently amended) The [A] product container as recited in Claim 24, wherein the first and second curved panels are integrally joined to one another along [a] the first lateral edge of the container.

26. (Currently amended) The [A] product container as recited in Claim 24, wherein the first and second curved panels are affixed to one another along [a] the second lateral edge of the container.

27. (Currently amended) The [A] product container as recited in Claim 20, wherein the upper end cap includes a shaped cavity for accommodating a product displayed within the container.

28. (Currently amended) The [A] product container as recited in Claim 27, wherein the shaped cavity extends from the upper end cap.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently amended) The [A] product container as recited in Claim 28, wherein the shaped cavity [has] includes a [generally] circular cross-section.

[31] 32. (Currently amended) The [A] product container as recited in Claim 31, wherein [the sleeve defines a second opening at a second end thereof, the second opening defined by a second peripheral edge, and wherein] the sleeve further includes a [second] pair of opposed lower resilient locking tabs extending from the [second] lower peripheral edge of the [second] lower opening for releasably engaging [a second] the lower end cap received within the [second] lower opening.

[32] 31. (Currently amended) The [A] product container as recited in Claim 20, further comprising a [second] lower end cap adapted and configured for reception within the [second] lower opening of the sleeve.

33. (Currently amended) The [A] product container as recited in Claim 32, wherein the [second] lower end cap [has] includes at least a pair of second channels therein, at least one the second channels receiving at least one of the lower locking tabs therein, each of the second channels comprising a second outwardly extending rim and a second ledge, the second outwardly extending rim [and the ledge together defining at least one channel therebetween, each said channel receiving at least one of the second pair of opposed resilient locking tabs therein, the outwardly extending rim] being adapted to abut the lower peripheral edge of the [second] lower

opening to limit [the] an extent to which the [second] lower end cap [can] extends into the sleeve.

34. (Currently amended) The [A] product container as recited in Claim 33, wherein the [second pair of] opposed lower resilient locking tabs are dimensioned and configured to releasably engage [the ledge of the second] at least one of the second channels of the lower end cap to retain the [second] lower end cap in the sleeve, the engaged lower locking tab being released from the second ledge by a twisting motion.

35. (Currently amended) The [A] product container as recited in Claim [34] 31, wherein the [second] lower end cap includes a shaped cavity for accommodating a product displayed within the container.

36. (Currently amended) The [A] product container as recited in Claim 35, wherein the shaped cavity extends from the [second] lower end cap.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently amended) The [A] product container as recited in Claim 35, wherein the shaped cavity of the [second] lower end cap [has] includes a [generally] circular cross-section.

39. (Currently amended) The [A] product container as recited in claim 20, wherein [the width of a given said locking tab is more than twice the height thereof.] each of the upper locking tabs has its width more than twice its height.

40. (Currently amended) The [A] product container as recited in claim 20, wherein each of the upper locking tabs has its width exceeding its height. [23, wherein the first and second curved panels each have a given convex panel curvature, each said locking tab having a tab curvature corresponding to the panel curvature associated with a given one of the first and second curved panels.]

41. (Currently amended) The [A] product container as recited in claim 20, wherein [~~a given said~~] the upper locking tabs [is] are either trapezoidal or rectangular in shape.

42. (Cancel)

43. (Currently amended) A product container comprising:

[a] — an elongated sleeve defining an opening at one end thereof, the opening defined by a peripheral edge, the sleeve including a pair of opposed resilient locking tabs extending from the peripheral edge of the opening for releasably engaging an end cap received within the opening, the sleeve including at least one convex sleeve panel, each said sleeve panel having an associated panel curvature, each said locking tab extending from a given said sleeve panel and having a tab curvature corresponding to the panel curvature; and

b) — an end cap adapted and configured for reception within the opening of the sleeve, the end cap defining a pair of channels therein, each said channel having an outwardly extending rim and a ledge, the outwardly extending rim being adapted to abut the peripheral edge of the opening to limit the extent to which the end cap can extend into the sleeve, the ledge having a ledge face, the ledge face being dimensioned and shaped to fit closely within the sleeve, each said channel receiving a corresponding said locking tab therein, a given said locking tab releasably engaging a given said ledge of a given said channel to retain the end cap in the sleeve.]

(A) an elongated sleeve, including:

- (a) a convex sleeve panel characterized by a panel curvature, an upper peripheral edge defining an upper opening, and a lower peripheral edge defining a lower opening, and
- (b) a pair of opposed upper resilient locking tabs extending from the upper peripheral edge of the sleeve panel, each of the upper locking tabs including a tab curvature corresponding to the panel curvature; and

(B) an upper end cap adapted and configured for reception within the upper opening of the sleeve, the upper end cap defining at least a pair of first discrete channels therein, at least one the first channels receiving at least one

Amdt. Dated: August 24, 2009

Reply to Office Action of April 23, 2009

of the upper locking tab therein, each of the first channels [having] including:

- (i) a first outwardly extending rim being adapted to abut the upper peripheral edge of the upper opening to limit an extent to which the upper end cap extends into the sleeve, and
- (ii) a first ledge including a ledge face being dimensioned and shaped to fit closely within the sleeve, the first ledge engaging at least one of the upper locking tabs within the first channel to retain the upper end cap in the sleeve, the engaged locking tab being released from the ledge by a twisting motion.

44. (Currently Amended) A product container comprising:

- (A) an elongated sleeve defining an opening at one end thereof, the opening defined by a peripheral edge, the sleeve including at least a pair of resilient locking tabs extending from the peripheral edge of the opening; and
- (B) an end cap adapted and configured for reception within the opening of the sleeve, the end cap defining at least a pair of discrete channels therein, each [said] of the discrete channels [having] including:
  - (i) an outwardly extending rim being adapted to abut the peripheral edge of the opening to limit an extent to which the end cap extends into the sleeve, and
  - (ii) a ledge including a ledge face being dimensioned and shaped to fit closely within the sleeve, the ledge releasably engaging at least one of the locking tabs within the channel to retain the end cap in the sleeve, the engaged locking tab being released from the ledge by a twisting motion.  
[each said channel receiving a corresponding said locking tab therein, a given said locking tab releasably engaging a given said ledge of a given said channel to retain the end cap in the sleeve.]

45. (Currently Amended) The [A] product container as recited in claim [45] 44, wherein each [said] of the discrete channels is rectangular in shape [or further defines at least one side having the form of a ramp].

46. (Currently Amended) The [A] product container as recited in claim [45] 44, wherein [a given said] at least one of the locking tabs is [either] trapezoidal or rectangular in shape.

47. (Cancel).